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DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/12/09 has been entered.

2. Claims 1,3-9,12-19,25,27-30,32-43,45,47-53,55-62, 63-70, 72-78 and 83-96 have been presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

3. In view of Applicant's arguments and amendments, the prior art rejection is withdrawn.

Examiner's Amendment

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeanette Harms on 01/13/10.

Please cancel claims 62, 63-70, 72-78.

Please amend the fifth limitation of claim 19 as follows: "wherein the merged results indicate ~~at least one~~ of..."

Please amend the fourth limitation of claim 33 as follows: "the merged results indicating ~~at least one of...~~"

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1,3-9,12-19,25,27-30,32-43,45,47-53,55-61 and 83-96 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1:

The prior art of record does not disclose "identifying any second portion of the design that has been exhaustively analyzed for all mode and corner combinations; and identifying any third portions of the design, the third portions of the design being other than the first and second portions, the third portion being less than

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exhaustively analyzed for all mode and corner combinations, wherein identifying each third portion includes identifying a level of analysis and a set of mode and corner combinations” in combination with the other claimed steps.

Regarding claim 19:

The prior art of record does not disclose “...wherein user-desired information regarding a predetermined set of mode and corner combinations is merged before other information, wherein the merged results indicate what parts of the design have not been analyzed, whether the design has been exhaustively analyzed for a particular corner and mode combination, and whether the design has been exhaustively analyzed for all corner and mode combinations, and wherein the merged results associated with the user-desired information are user-accessible fore the merged results associated with the other information” in combination with the other claimed steps.

Regarding claim 25:

The prior art of record does not disclose “instructions for identifying any second portion of the design that has been exhaustively analyzed for all mode and corner combinations; and instructions for identifying any third portions of the design, the third portions of the design being other than the first and second portions, the third portion being less than exhaustively analyzed for all mode and corner combinations, wherein identifying each third portion includes identifying a level of analysis and a set of mode and corner combinations” in combination with the other claimed instructions.

Regarding claim 33:

The prior art of record does not disclose “the merged results indicating what parts of the design have not been analyzed, whether the design has been exhaustively analyzed for a particular corner and mode combination, and whether the design has been exhaustively analyzed for all corner and mode combinations, and a fourth set of instructions for merging user-desired information regarding a predetermined set of corner and mode combinations before merging other information, wherein the merged results associated with the desired information are user-

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accessible for the merged results associated with the other information" in combination with the other claimed instructions.

Regarding claims 34 and 45:

The prior art of record does not disclose "analyzing the saved intermediate results to automatically construct merged results that provide analysis coverage and path information at multiple level of detail, wherein analyzing the saved intermediate results includes...identifying any second portion of the design that have been exhaustively analyzed for all mode and corner combinations; and identifying any third portions of the design, the third portions of the design being other than the first and second portions, the third portion being less than exhaustively analyzed for all mode and corner combinations, wherein identifying each third portion includes identifying a level of analysis and a set of mode and corner combinations" in combination with the other claimed steps.

Regarding claim 83:

The prior art of record does not disclose "analyzing the intermediate results to construct merged results, the merged results indicating for each path a percentage of times that timing violations exist for all analyzed modes and corners" in combination with the other claimed steps.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shambhavi Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-5877. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamini Shah can be reached on (571) 272-2279. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SKP

/Kamini S Shah/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2128